

Long Term Care Coordinating Council

Regular Meeting

September 10, 2008

10:00 am

State House Room 313

Providence, RI

Minutes

Attendance:

Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Ray Rusin

Michael Varadian

Virginia Burke

Cynthia Conant-Arp

Liz Morancy

Mary Benway

Jill Anderson

Bonnie Sekeres

Kathleen Heren

Bob DeCenso

Bonnie Larson

Roberta Merkle

Angelo Rotella

Paula Parker

Lynda Sprague

Joan Wood

Elaina Goldstein

Kathleen Kelly

Gavin Ward

Bill Flynn

Ken Pariseau

Maureen Maigret

Susan Sweet

Jennifer Wood

Dan Meuse

Erin Kelly

Chairwoman Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

The minutes of the June meeting receive unanimous approval.

The chair introduced Ray Rusin from the Department of Health to discuss the department's activities regarding surveys of nursing homes. Mr. Rusin introduced Michael Varadian, a new employee at the department who will lead the Division of Environmental and Health Services Regulation.

Mr. Rusin reported that the department cited four facilities for substandard quality of care. Additionally, CMS has increased “look-behind surveys” due to higher than national average pressure ulcer prevalence rate. These “look-behind” surveys are conducted immediately following a state survey. The surveys are more intensive than the state surveys.

Mr. Rusin also suggested that the council examine the definitions of sub-standard quality of care. Currently, every instance of sub-standard results in a year-long bi-monthly survey requirement. Mr. Rusin suggested that this intensive survey follow-up may not be necessary for every infraction currently classified as sub-standard quality of care.

The council discussed the current status of Haven facilities. Mr. Rusin explained that Haven entered voluntary bankruptcy. A company known as TLC, LLC took over the operations of the Rhode Island Haven facilities and is currently looking for approval for a change in effective control. Mr. Rusin suggested that the Director of Health did not want to revoke license of the Haven facilities as it would require the facilities to close.

The council discussed the effects of the retirements on the office of Facilities Regulation and its ability to keep up with the requirements of surveying. Mr. Rusin stated that the office is able to handle the

current load. The council also discussed the contents of the “look-behind” surveys. The council also discussed the status of Summit Commons. Mr. Rusin reported that the facility received its state license in early July. The facility was also recently certified for Medicare.

The chair introduced Roberta Merkle of Cornerstone Adult Services to provide a presentation on Rhode Island Adult Day providers. [Presentation available upon request.]

The council discussed a number of issues surrounding adult day centers in the state. One issue was capacity issues. Most adult day centers have available capacity to take more participants. Some locations do have capacity issues, especially in regions with limited numbers of facilities, like Aquidneck Island.

The council also discussed payment issues, specifically regarding the difference between rates paid by Medicaid and private pay rates. Additionally, the council discussed the proposed rate increases for adult day that was part of the FY 2009 budget. The council discussed the use of Long-Term Care Insurance. Finally, the council discussed diversity issues, including any linguistic specialties at certain centers.

The chair introduced Jennifer Wood from the Office of Lt. Governor to discuss the pressure ulcer collaborative design group. Ms. Wood

stated that the group has nearly completed the final draft of its report that will be forwarded to Quality Partners. The next step in the process will be the convening of an implementation group to get the cross-setting collaborative off the ground.

The chair began a discussion of the proposed global Medicaid waiver. The council discussed that budget savings for the fiscal year were based on program implementation on October 1. Based on the current timing and enabling statutory language, the waiver could not be approved before October 1, and further, implementation of proposed reforms cannot occur immediately, but require build up time. The chair suggested the council sent a letter to the deputy secretary inviting her to describe the workplan at next meeting. The council approved the motion to invite the deputy secretary to the next meeting.

The council continued a discussion of issues surrounding Medicaid. One issue discussed was the staffing situation in the Medicaid agencies with the wave of state employee retirements. The council discussed the fact that Medicaid agencies are still budgeted separately causing budget decisions to be made on a agency basis, rather than a statewide basis. Finally, the council discussed the fact that if Medicaid reforms are not made at all, eligibility cuts for all Medicaid program could be drastic.

The chair recognized member Susan Sweet who relayed a story of a

child in permanent long term care at Tavares Pediatric Center. The child came the US in 1999 and overstayed a visa. He contracted a disease that left him disabled and reliant on a ventilator. His Medicaid coverage was ended in July and he no longer has any coverage for his medication. The Lt. Governor stated that she would direct staff to look into options.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.